

Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Public Schools

Change Overview Narrative

- Minor language changes
- Update Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act reference
- Update policy cross references

Students

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED PRAYER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Board affirms in writing to the New York State Education Department, the responsibilities of the District, consistent with applicable statutory or case law pertaining to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, to allow students and staff to engage in constitutionally protected prayer within the District schools.

Accordingly, no Board policy will prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in District schools, consistent with federal law.

The Board rescinds any other policy that may be inconsistent with the mandates of this policy, which will supersede any and all Board policies to the contrary.

United States Constitution, First Amendment

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, Section 9524

Equal Access Act, 20 USC Sections 4071-4074

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #8360 -- Religious Expression in the Instructional Program

Adoption Date



Book	POLICY
Section	7000 - Students
Title	Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Public Schools
Code	7460
Status	Active
Adopted	June 6, 2005
Last Reviewed	March 9, 2020

In accordance with the most recent Guidance Document issued by the U.S. Department of Education implementing the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the Board of Education affirms the responsibilities of the School District, consistent with applicable statutory/case law pertaining to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, to allow students and staff to engage in constitutionally protected prayer within the District schools.

Accordingly, no Board of Education policy shall prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in District schools, consistent with the Guidance Document and applicable law as enumerated above.

The Board rescinds any other policy that may be inconsistent with the mandates of this policy, which shall supersede any and all Board policies to the contrary.

Legal	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Section 9524, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
	United States Constitution, First Amendment
	Equal Access Act,
	20 United States Code (USC) Sections 4071-4074

Cross References	7460F - Constitutionally Protected Prayer Certification
	8360 - Religious Expression in the Instructional Program